

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 RABAT 04593 201738Z

73

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 NEA-14 ISO-00 FEA-02 AEC-11 AID-20

CEA-02 CIAE-00 CIEP-03 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-11 FPC-01

H-03 INR-11 INT-08 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 OMB-01 PM-07

RSC-01 SAM-01 SCI-06 SP-03 SS-20 STR-08 TRSE-00

FRB-03 OPIC-12 DRC-01 /203 W
----- 091998

R 201705Z SEP 74

FM AMEMBASSY RABAT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3264

INFO USINT ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

C O N F I D E N T I A L RABAT 4593

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ECON EMIN PBOR PFOR MO

SUBJECT: NEED FOR TACTICAL COORDINATION REGARDING US ECONOMIC
POLICY TOWARDS MOROCCAN-SAHARAN DEVELOPMENTS

REF: (A) STATE 203751

(B) RABAT 4539 AND PREVIOUS

1. WE HAVE NO INFO GENERATED LOCALLY RE FREEPORT MINERALS
PROPOSAL REPORTED REF A. WE WOULD VERY MUCH LIKE TO
KNOW MORE, PARTICULARLY ABOUT ORIGIN OF PROPOSAL.

2. WHILE IT IS NOT SURPRISING THAT SOME U.S. FIRMS ARE BECOMING
INTERESTED IN PARTICIPATING IN EXPLOITATION OF SPANISH
SAHARAN RESOURCES, WE ARE CONCERNED THAT SUCH INTEREST MIGHT
SURFACE PREMATURELY AND BE MISINTERPRETED BY VARIOUS CONCERNED
PARTIES, TO OUR LONG-TERM DISADVANTAGE AND INDEED TO
DISADVANTAGE OF INTERESTED U.S. FIRMS. BASICALLY IT IS A
QUESTION OF TIMING. ONCE POLITICAL FUTURE OF SPANISH SAHARA
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 RABAT 04593 201738Z

IS DETERMINED, THERE OUGHT TO BE A ROLE FOR U.S. BUSINESS,

QUITE POSSIBLY A MAJOR ONE. BUT AS LONG AS POLITICAL ISSUE REMAINS IN DOUBT, FACTS OF SITUATION ARGUE STRONGLY IN FAVOR OF CONTINUATION OF EXISTING USG POSTURE OF NON-INVOLVEMENT-- AND OF USG DOING WHAT IT CAN TO PERSUADE INTERESTED U.S. FIRMS TO PLAY A WAITING GAME AS WELL.

3. REF B DOCUMENTS AT LEAST INFERENTIALLY, POTENTIAL MOROCCAN SENSITIVITY TO ANY FUTURE U.S. BUSINESS ACTIVITY IN SAHARA POSTULATED ON ANY PREMISE OTHER THAN THAT OF AREA'S EARLY "RETURN" TO MOROCCAN RULE. UNDER PRESENT TRANSITIONAL CIRCUMSTANCES IT WOULD BE IMPOSSIBLE FOR GOM CONSIDER A PROPOSAL SUCH AS FREEPORT'S, WHICH BY YIELDING 25 PERCENT INTEREST TO MAURITANIA WOULD NECESSARILY BE CONSTRUED AS PREJUDGING NATURE OF EVENTUAL POLITICAL SETTLEMENT. INDEED, ANY APPROACH TO MOROCCAN AUTHORITIES ALONG THESE LINES AT THIS JUNCTURE WOULD SURELY BE SUBJECT TO INTERPRETATION THAT USG AND/OR U.S. COMMERCIAL INTERESTS CLUMSILY TRYING TO BRIDGE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN PROTAGONISTS.

4. PHILLIPS PETROLEUM REP (WILKINGSON) HAS ALSO APPROACHED EMBASSY WITHIN RECENT DAYS REGARDING PROPOSED EXPLORATORY ACTIVITIES IN BOTH SPANISH SAHARA AND MOROCCO (NORTH OF RABAT). WHILE WE HAVE EXPLAINED FACTS OF LIFE TO PHILLIPS REP, BELIEVE IT ESSENTIAL THAT DEPARTMENT AND INVOLVED US EMBASSIES (RABAT, MADRID, NOUAKCHOTT, ALGIERS) PURSUE COORDINATED TACTICS TO DISSUADE THESE AND OTHER U.S. COMMERCIAL INTERESTS FROM MOVING INTO AREA IN PRESENT DELICATE CIRCUMSTANCES. THIS WOULD NOT PRECLUDE IN-HOUSE PREPARATORY ACTIVITIES ON PART THESE OR OTHER U.S. FIRMS LOOKING TOWARDS PROFITABLE ACTIVITIES WHEN SAHARAN SOVEREIGNTY ISSUE RESOLVED. COMMERCIAL NEGOTIATIONS OR ACTIVITIES AT THIS MOMENT, HOWEVER, COULD NOT ONLY SOUR U.S. RELATIONS WITH SEVERAL COUNTRIES BUT LIKELY TO (A) RESULT IN LOSS OF CONCESSION FOR SUCH FIRMS IN OTHER THAN STATUS QUO OUTCOME AND (B) INVOLVE U.S. IN NASTY TAKEOVER CLAIMS WHICH CAREFUL ACTION NOW MIGHT OBVIATE.
NEUMANN

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLICIES, BUSINESS FIRMS, FOREIGN INVESTMENTS, EXPLOITATION (NATURAL RESOURCES)
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 20 SEP 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: cunninfx
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974RABAT04593
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740265-0659
From: RABAT
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740927/aaaaawvy.tel
Line Count: 98
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: (A) STATE 203751
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: cunninfx
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 17 JUN 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <17 JUN 2002 by elyme>; APPROVED <10 MAR 2003 by cunninfx>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NEED FOR TACTICAL COORDINATION REGARDING US ECONOMIC POLICY TOWARDS MOROCCAN-SAHARAN DEVELOPMENTS
TAGS: ECON, EMIN, PBOR, PFOR, MO, SS, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005